From: mike g
To: McGovern, Marc
Subject: Re: Please vote for Policy Order POR 2018 #101
Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018 3:31:06 PM

Hi Marc,

Thanks for your vote to give the EMF artists extra time before eviction and also to discuss a potential sale of the building to the city. That would be a great outcome though I realize there are no guarantees. Another issue has come to my attention that concerns me, this is in regard to the company HP, which is creating and selling surveillance technologies that is being used by Israel and our own federal government to track and oppress Palestinians, immigrants, prisoners, etc. I don't know Cambridge's exact business relationship with HP (if any) but I think it would be important for our city to make a statement that we do not tolerate violence and human rights violations anywhere on this planet. I'm going to try and attend the hearing on Monday, hopefully you and the other city councilors will make a stand, seeing as I believe none of us is free until all of us are free.

thank you
-mike g-
237 Franklin St, Apt #811
Cambridge MA, 02139

On Mon, Apr 2, 2018 at 1:20 PM, McGovern, Marc <mmcGovern@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

> I never said I wasn't voting for it. I intend to. I was just trying to clarify what the city can and cannot do. There are folks saying that we can force the new owner to keep the building in it's current use, and we cannot do that.
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> **From:** mike g <pixelsand@gmail.com>
> **Sent:** Monday, April 2, 2018 1:17:04 PM
> **To:** McGovern, Marc
> **Subject:** Re: Please vote for Policy Order POR 2018 #101
>
> Hi Marc,
>
> Thank you for responding. Can you clarify to me exactly why you can't vote for this, if that is what you are saying? Is this a legal matter or just a personal opinion? The bill has 3 sponsors on city council (Zondervan, Devereux, and Corlone), so they must feel differently. I'm in full agreement with what you say about a city owned arts space and the zoning (and thank you for support on this!), but it concerns me greatly the community destabilization that could occur during the displacement. As far as I can gather this policy order isn't trying to change the overall transaction but rather just give the artists more time and support to weather the transition.
>
> As somebody who has been displaced from CHA properties TWICE in the past four years I can attest to how draining it can be to re-orient yourself and your life to a new environment.

At least in my case I had the support of the housing authority, these artists are going to be on their own and doubtlessly many will fall out of the Cambridge community altogether before there is any hope of them acquiring an alternative space.

I apologize if these questions sound dumb or uninformed, the issue only came to my attention very recently and I'm not hugely educated on a lot of these legal processes. With life in general though I tend to not be very accepting of the idea that "nothing can be done" unless there is a very good reason!

On Mon, Apr 2, 2018 at 12:36 PM, McGovern, Marc <mmcGovern@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

> Mike,
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> Thank you for your email. Just to clarify a few things, I'm not sure what you mean by "Our city government has the power to mitigate the hardships these people face…" In the case of the EMF building, this is a private, real estate sale. The city cannot force the new owner to keep this building as artist space. We cannot force him to do anything. I am working with him and advocating for him to give these folks more time and to help with moving expenses, but at the end of the day, these folks have tenant at will leases and the new owner is only required to give them 30 days notice (he gave them 60). In the big picture, what the city can do is try to create it's own, city owned space for artists (which I support) and to create an artist overlay district that provides incentives for property owners to create affordable artist space (which I also support). In the end, however, our power over a private real estate transaction is not as great as what people think.
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> **From:** mike g [mailto:pixelsand@gmail.com]
> **Sent:** Monday, April 02, 2018 12:23 PM
> **To:** City Council <CityCouncil@CambridgeMA.GOV>; City Manager <CityManager@CambridgeMA.GOV>; Lopez, Donna <dlopez@cambridgema.gov>
> **Subject:** Please vote for Policy Order POR 2018 #101
>
> I'm writing you in support of this policy order to give the tenants facing eviction from the EMF building more time to transition. Artists labor hard to keep our city vibrant and desirable, and in return they are often treated poorly and not properly compensated for their contributions. Our city government has the power to mitigate the hardships these people face as they continue to produce valuable work in spaces for such that are becoming more and more scarce. I hope tonight we exercise that power and not submit to interests of money and the real estate industry. As a disabled video artist myself this story has recently caught my attention is something I plan to follow up on in the near future in order to try and document the stories of the artists effected, regardless of tonight's outcome. I hope I will have something positive to report but given general trends I have many more fears and doubts.
>
> Thank you for reading.

> > Michael Goodman
> >
> > 237 Franklin Street, Apt #811
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> > Cambridge MA, 02139
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